

**Senate Bill No. 615**

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Passed the Senate September 5, 2007

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*Secretary of the Senate*

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Passed the Assembly September 4, 2007

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*Chief Clerk of the Assembly*

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This bill was received by the Governor this \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007, at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock \_\_\_\_M.

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*Private Secretary of the Governor*

## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

An act to add Section 4410 to the Business and Professions Code, and to amend Section 128345 of, and to add Article 6 (commencing with Section 128560) to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of, the Health and Safety Code, relating to pharmacy technicians.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 615, Oropeza. Pharmacy technicians: scholarship and loan repayment program.

(1) Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of pharmacy technicians by the California State Board of Pharmacy. Existing law authorizes the imposition of a biennial license renewal fee upon pharmacy technicians.

This bill would require the board to collect an additional fee of \$10 at the time a pharmacy technician license is renewed to be deposited in the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund.

(2) Existing law authorizes the Health Professions Education Foundation to implement specified loan repayment programs for nurses, mental health service providers, and physicians.

Existing law establishes in the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program to provide scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of pharmacy students and to repay qualifying educational loans of pharmacists who agree to serve in areas of the state where unmet priority needs exist, as specified. Existing law requires the office to administer the program utilizing the same general guidelines applicable to specified federal programs, with the exception that no matching funds shall be required from any entity in the practice site area.

This bill would establish the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program to provide scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of pharmacy technician students and to repay qualifying educational loans of pharmacy technicians who agree to serve in areas of the state where unmet priority needs exist, as specified. The bill would require the Health Professions

Education Foundation to administer this program in the same manner as the program for pharmacists, including that no matching funds shall be required from any entity in the practice site area.

(3) Existing law establishes the California Pharmacist Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund in the State Treasury, and requires that the moneys in the fund be available for expenditure, upon appropriation by the Legislature, for purposes of implementing the program. Existing law provides that the program shall be implemented only to the extent that sufficient moneys are available in the fund.

This bill would establish the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund, under the same terms and conditions, for purposes of implementing the program established by the bill.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 4410 is added to the Business and Professions Code, to read:

4410. At the time a pharmacy technician license is renewed pursuant to subdivision (r) of Section 4400, the board shall collect an additional fee of ten dollars (\$10) for the sole purpose of funding the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program established pursuant to Article 6 (commencing with Section 128560) of Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code. The fee submitted pursuant to this section shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund established pursuant to Section 128199.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

SEC. 2. Section 128345 of the Health and Safety Code is amended to read:

128345. The Health Professions Education Foundation may do any of the following:

(a) Solicit and receive funds from business, industry, foundations, and other private or public sources for the purpose of providing financial assistance in the form of scholarships or loans to African-American students, Native American students, Hispanic-American students, and other students from underrepresented groups. These funds shall be expended by the

office after transfer to the Health Professions Education Fund, created pursuant to Section 128355.

(b) Recommend to the director the disbursement of private sector moneys deposited in the Health Professions Education Fund to students from underrepresented groups accepted to or enrolled in schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health professions in the form of loans or scholarships.

(c) Recommend to the director a standard contractual agreement to be signed by the director and any participating student, that would require a period of obligated professional service in the areas in California designated by the commission as deficient in primary care services. The agreement shall include a clause entitling the state to recover the funds awarded plus the maximum allowable interest for failure to begin or complete the service obligation.

(d) Develop criteria for evaluating the likelihood that applicants for scholarships or loans would remain to practice their profession in designated areas deficient in primary care services.

(e) Develop application forms, which shall be disseminated to students from underrepresented groups interested in applying for scholarships or loans.

(f) Encourage private sector institutions, including hospitals, community clinics, and other health agencies to identify and provide educational experiences to students from underrepresented groups who are potential applicants to schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health professions.

(g) Prepare and submit an annual report to the office documenting the amount of money solicited from the private sector, the number of scholarships and loans awarded, the enrollment levels of students from underrepresented groups in schools of medicine, dentistry, nursing, and other health professions, and the projected need for scholarships and loans in the future.

(h) Recommend to the director that a portion of the funds solicited from the private sector be used for the administrative requirements of the foundation.

(i) Implement the Steven M. Thompson Physician Corps Loan Repayment Program and the Volunteer Physician Program, as provided under Article 5 (commencing with Section 128550).

(j) Administer the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, as provided under Article 6 (commencing with Section 128560).

SEC. 3. Article 6 (commencing with Section 128560) is added to Chapter 5 of Part 3 of Division 107 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

Article 6. California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and  
Loan Repayment Program

128560. (a) (1) There is hereby established within the Health Professions Education Foundation the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program.

(2) The program shall provide scholarships to pay for the educational expenses of pharmacy technician school students and to repay qualifying educational loans of pharmacy technicians who agree to participate in designated medically underserved areas as provided in this section.

(b) The Health Professions Education Foundation shall administer the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program utilizing the same general guidelines applicable to the federal National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program established pursuant to Section 254 *l* of Title 42 of the United States Code and the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program established pursuant to Section 254 *l*-1 of Title 42 of the United States Code, except as follows:

(1) A pharmacy technician or pharmacy technician student shall be eligible to participate in the program if he or she agrees to provide pharmacy technician services in a practice site located in areas of the state where unmet priority needs for primary care family physicians exist as determined by the Health Workforce Policy Commission.

(2) No matching funds shall be required from any entity in the practice site area.

(c) This section shall be implemented only to the extent that sufficient moneys are available in the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund to administer the program.

128561. The California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program Fund is hereby established in the State

Treasury. Revenues from the fees collected pursuant to Section 4410 of the Business and Professions Code, as well as any other private or public funds made available for purposes of the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program, shall be deposited into the fund. Upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be available for expenditure by the Health Professions Education Foundation for purposes of implementing the California Pharmacy Technician Scholarship and Loan Repayment Program pursuant to this article. The Health Professions Education Foundation shall be under no obligation to administer a program under this article until sufficient moneys have been accumulated in the fund and appropriated to the foundation by the Legislature.



Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2007

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*Governor*